Heather’s Highlights

Dear Newsletter Readers,

So far, March has brought many things to the North Quabbin including snow, sunshine, the hope of Spring, and most recently, a presentation on Active Bystanders by Quabbin Mediation at NQCC’s last forum. The discussion was rich as all participated in defining harm doing, and identifying effective and safe intervention strategies!

The presentation was part of a series of trainings being offered by Quabbin Mediation. Please contact them to be a part of a future presentation if you have not been able to attend in the past. They are wonderful, thought provoking and participants leave feeling more skilled to make their piece of the world a better, safer, more inclusive place for all. This home grown program works! Contact Quabbin Mediation at 978-544-6142 or through their website at quabbinmediation.org

Thank you for all you do!

Heather Bialecki-Canning
Executive Director

Next Coalition Forum:
April 21, 2017
9:00—10:30 am
Topic: Franklin County Sheriff’s Office TJC

Athol-Orange Elks Club
92 New Athol Road
Orange, MA
(Driving directions at www.nqcc.org)

The next newsletter submission deadline is April 25, 2017. Email details to admin@nqcc.org

Visit our comprehensive North Quabbin Community Calendar at nqcc.org/events.html

Like us on Facebook for regular updates!

NQCC
251 Exchange Street
Athol, MA 01331
978-249-3703
www.nqcc.org
info@nqcc.org

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David Runyan

Donations can be made via PayPal with the link on the cover of this publication, at www.nqcc.org, or by check to the address at left.
Please Join Us for a child-friendly event celebration and Flag Raising event in honor of Child Abuse Awareness Month

Date: April 7th 2017
Time: 10:30am
Place: Memorial Park South Main St.
Orange, MA

Remarks by Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan, Representative Susannah Whipps, and Community Leaders

North Quabbin Community Coalition

Children’s Advocacy Center of Franklin County and North Quabbin Area
Healing Past the Pain

ARE YOU:
A Parent/Caregiver of a child who has been sexually abused?

DO YOU:
♦ Often feel you don’t know what to do or say?
♦ Have questions & no answers?
♦ Feel overwhelmed?
♦ Feel alone?

Join others with similar experiences in this Support and educational group for parents/caregivers of children who have been sexually abused. Because...
YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

WHEN: Weekly, Beginning Tuesday, April 11, 2017, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm for 8 weeks. Childcare and Snacks Provided.

WHERE: Valuing Our Children, Walnut St., Athol

If Interested CALL: Jackie Humphreys, LICSW 413-364-3527
Parenting Overload

Do you text? Do you email? Are you a parent? Do you feel tired, overwhelmed or occasionally off balance with all of the responsibilities in your life? Most of you probably answered yes to those questions and we have some tools to help!

You are like a finely tuned vehicle, you must use regular maintenance to keep your load balanced and be the best parent you can be! The North Quabbin System of Care has created a weekly text or email blast to help share tips, tricks, supports, activities and groups directly to you! Visit www.nqcc.org/parenting.html to sign up and receive the information weekly! Sponsored by the North Quabbin System of Care and Clinical & Support Options.

Brought to you by the North Quabbin System of Care Task Force

Resources to Lighten Your Load: nqcc.org/parenting.html
3 DAY FACILITATOR TRAINING
NURTURING FATHERS’ PROGRAM

Training on the Nurturing Fathers’ Program curriculum and group facilitation

Learn and practice key skills and become acquainted with the Nurturing Parenting Program ® Model

Learn from highly experienced facilitators of Nurturing Fathers’ Programs

Required to attend this training:

- You MUST be able to commit to attend ALL 3 days - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
- Register at: https://www.eventbrite.com/o/family-nurturing-center-of-massachusetts-7060502961
- Contact LaWaun Curry for more information

April 4, 5, 6, 2017
TUESDAY,
WEDNESDAY,
THURSDAY
9:00am – 4:30pm

Springfield Family Resource Center

18 Gaucher Street
Springfield, MA, 01109

Parking Available
Lunch is provided

For more info contact
LaWaun Curry
lcurry@familynurturing.org
617-474-1143 x231

FAMILY NURTURING CENTER
200 Bowdoin Street
Dorchester, MA 02122
617.474.1143

www.familynurturing.org

Register NOW!
**Employment Opportunities**

**Program Coordinator in Athol**

Community Action is seeking an energetic, highly organized, and self-motivated individual to supervise WIOA/YouthWorks programs. Over three years of case management experience is required. You will provide effective staff supervision and program oversight. Position is 37.5 hours per week and the salary is $35,000 to $38,000 based on qualifications.

**Program Specialist in Orange (Search Reopened)**

Seeking highly reliable, positive, and experienced youth worker to provide 1:1 case management to high school age youth to support their achievement of educational/work goals, job readiness training, and ongoing coaching to overcome barriers. Position is 37.5 hours per week and pays $14.50 to $15.00 per hour based on qualifications (up to $15.25 for bilingual candidates.) Excellent benefits—health, dental, retirement, paid time off, three weeks vacation, sick, personal and holidays! Strong team, positive work environment, excellent training!

To apply to either position, email resume/cover letter as a Word/pdf document to caad343@communityaction.us. Include name and position in subject line. No calls, videos, or visits. For more information and full job descriptions, visit www.communityaction.us. AA/EOE/ADA

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**Free Tax Assistance Program**

*for households with low-to-moderate income*

**Make Tax Time Pay YOU!**

**Get as much money back as possible**

**Take full advantage of every credit— Earned Income Tax Credit and more!**

**Quick and friendly service**

**Tax Appointment Scheduling Begins January 2, 2017.**

After January 1, look for the on-line form at www.communityaction.us/taxes

or call 413-376-1176

One of our friendly staff will contact you to schedule your appointment and tell you what documents you will need to bring. **Appointments are available in Greenfield and Northampton.**
AGENT ORANGE

TOWN HALL MEETING FOR VIETNAM VETERANS

Do you have questions about Agent Orange?
It has been over 55 years since its first use and Vietnam Veterans are still uninformed about the issues and the diseases they may have because of exposure to Agent Orange in and around Vietnam.
This program will review issues and diseases caused by Agent Orange exposure, benefits you may be eligible for, question and answer periods. Veterans’ claims officers will be on hand to make appointments with you and your dependants. Even if you’re already 100% Service Connected Disabled you should attend. If you lost a loved one to Agent Orange exposure you are also welcome to attend.

April 22, 2017 12:00-4:00 pm
Greenfield Community College - Main Building-Dining Commons
1 College Drive Greenfield, MA 01301
(Free Health Care Screening 12:00-1pm prior to event starting)
Guest Speakers will discuss: Agent Orange presumptive diseases and the resources available through the VA, heart issues related to exposure, 2nd & 3rd generation birth defects, other toxic exposures and the latest on treatment for Hepatitis C.

Sponsored by Greenfield Community College*, the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans’ Services with generous support from the Vietnam Veterans of Massachusetts Inc. and Vietnam Veterans of America MA State Council

Participants: VFW, American Legion, D.A.V., V.V.A., AMVETS, MA Dept. of Veterans’ Services, MEDCARE, Marine Corps League, Military Order of the Purple Heart and many more.

For More information call
(413) 772-1571 or (413) 775-1825

*GCC is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution
MassHealth AND MEDICAID OPTIONS, ELIGIBILITY AND ACCESS

Presented by: Peter Kuusisto, from The Community Health Center
Hosted by: The United Arc

Two Opportunities to Attend:

Wednesday, April 12, 2017
6-8 pm
The United Arc/GAAAFSN
361 Main Street, Athol, MA

OR

Wednesday, April 26, 2017
6-8 pm
The United Arc
294 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

Refreshments will be provided

Peter Kuusisto, an Outreach and Enrollment Coordinator from The Community Health Center of Franklin County is experienced and qualified in helping people access health benefits. In his presentation he will cover the following:

- An overview of the relationship between Social Security, MassHealth and Medicare
- Navigating and accessing all MassHealth programs

Participants will be encouraged to ask specific questions regarding their student, child, or family member.

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT:
Sheila Butler
sheilabutler@unitedarc.org
978-249-4052 x1047
OR
Darlene Reilly
darlenereilly@unitedarc.org
413-774-5558 x 1042
OR
Register at www.theunitedarc.org

United Way Partner Agency
The Arc
For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
Seeking Volunteers

Athol Hospital is looking for volunteers to work in the Glass Shelf Gift Shop at the hospital. The shop is open Monday through Friday with shifts of 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and/or 1:00 to 4:00 pm. All proceeds directly benefit the hospital and area high school seniors going into the healthcare field. Since the shop is operated entirely by volunteers, they ask that you make a commitment to one shift a week. Please call Pat Lussier at 978-249-1145 if interested.

Friends of Athol Hospital

The Friends are inviting the public to their April meeting on Tuesday, April 11, at 1:00 pm in the Hillis Board Room at Athol Hospital, 2033 Main Street. Their special guest will be Win Brown, President and CEO of Heywood Healthcare. Refreshments will be served.

The Nurturing Father’s Program

"It makes you look at life different. If you are a father, uncle, or brother to any young child. It helps in all your relationships."

Participant

Beginning

Wed. April 5th
at 5:30 pm

Valuing Our Children
217 Walnut St Athol

Childcare, dinner, and help with transportation provided.

If you are interested and/or have any questions please contact Jennifer at 978-249-8467 x22

Parenting in the Age of Legal Marijuana

An Evening Event for Adults who Raise, Care for and Educate Young People.

Franklin County Tech School
82 Industrial Blvd, Montague, MA
Thursday, April 6th, 2017
5:30pm – 6pm Light Dinner
6pm- 8 presentation, Q&A

• What are the effects of marijuana on the teen brain?
• What should I tell my teen about marijuana now that it’s legal for adults?
• What should I know about vaping and edibles?

Come learn from a presentation and Q&A with adolescent brain specialist:
Dr. Jennifer Michaels, Medical Director of the Child and Adolescent Services Division of the Brien Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and an Assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Childcare available: call Kara McLaughlin 413-863-7512

Thanks to the school nurses from the Gill-Montague Regional School District, Franklin County Technical School, Greenfield Public Schools, Gill-Montague Community School Partnership, Greenfield Safe Schools Safe Streets Coalition, Partnership for Youth, Communities That Care Parent Education Workgroup, Nw District Attorney David Sullivan’s Office, and the Franklin County Technical School’s Culinary Arts Department.

ACT Group

A weekly group meeting for men with a history of criminal justice involvement

Day/Time: TUESDAYS 1:15pm-2:15pm
Place: 251 Exchange St. Athol, MA 01331
North Quabbin Community Coalition Office

Please call Ruben for more information
413-774-4014 ext. 2233
FREE Lunch Provided
Franklin County Transportation Study

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is conducting a feasibility study for a van sharing program in the Franklin County region. As part of this study, they are surveying local social service providers to gauge the level of interest in a van sharing program. If you work for a social service agency and want to fill out the survey, click here. Please note that the target audience for this survey is service providers in Franklin County, the North Quabbin Region, and Hampshire County. For questions or more information, please contact Megan Rhodes, Senior Transportation and Land Use Planner, at the FRCOG, at mrhodes@frcog.org.

Congressman James P. McGovern’s Local Office Hours in Athol

Congressman James P. McGovern, serving the 2nd Congressional District, Massachusetts, has announced new local office hours at the North Quabbin Community Coalition, 251 Exchange Street, Athol. Staff will be available on the third Friday of every month from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm to meet with you and provide assistance/advocacy with matters pertaining to federal government agencies and to discuss concerns, thoughts or opinions regarding matters pertaining to the federal government. To schedule an appointment or for additional information, please contact Eladia Romero, District Representative at 978-466-3552.
Fifth Annual LGBTIQA Intergenerational Gathering & Dinner: An Evening with Robyn Ochs

Enjoy a delicious dinner with friends new and old for a gathering of LGBTIQA folks of all ages on April 25 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm at Greenfield Community College Dining Commons, One College Drive, Greenfield. This year’s inter generational event will feature special guest speaker, Robyn Ochs. Robyn is an educator, speaker, award-winning activist. An advocate for the rights of people of ALL orientations and genders to live safely, openly and with full access and opportunity, Robyn’s work focuses on increasing awareness and understanding of complex identities, and mobilizing people to be powerful allies to one another within and across identities and social movements. There is no charge for this event, but donations are welcome and will be used to cover expenses for this and future Rainbow Elders events. Register online by April 19 at www.eventbrite.com/e/lgbtiqa-intergenerational-dinner-with-robyn-ochs-registration-32666812315 or call Lynne Feldman, Director of Community Services, at 413-773-5555 x2215.

Support Elders and Meals on Wheels

Throughout Franklin County and Athol, Petersham, Phillipston, and Royalston, volunteers provide nearly 140,000 meals and a well-being check to more than 1,000 homebound elders each year. That's over 550 meals each weekday! The program is currently underfunded by $150,000. How does the Walkathon help? It closes the funding gap that makes it possible to get home-delivered meals to all who qualify with no wait time. In 2016, the event raised $92,898 and a record number of walkers fundraised.

Join us as a walker or make a walk team on Saturday, April 29, from 8:00 to 11:00 am at Greenfield Community College, One College Drive, Greenfield. You can help make sure our community’s elders are not alone, forgotten, or hungry. For more information or to register or donate, visit

Become a Paid Caregiver with Adult Family Care

Already caring for a loved one? If you're caring for a loved one, you don't have to do it all alone. You can receive professional support and enhance your income with Adult Family Care! Have some extra room in your home? You can enhance your income while caring for someone in need as a host family with Adult Family Care.
Are You...
A North Quabbin teenager between the ages of 15 and 18?
Looking for life experience and skills? Willing to exercise your body and mind?

APPLY NOW FOR SOL® Garden 2017
*Seeds of Leadership

At SOL Garden you will...

GROW and EAT
Sow and harvest organic vegetables, cook and enjoy great food

BUILD
Gain carpentry skills and confidence

SERVE
Create gardens and donate food for the community

CREATE YOUR LIFE
Learn about positive choices for your life and the world

CELEBRATE
At the Garlic and Arts festival and other great events.

SOL Garden Meets every Thursday after school, 2:30-5 PM, starting April 27th then Thursdays through the summer, too at Seeds of Solidarity, Orange. You must be able to come every Thursday starting April 27th, 2017 to apply.

SOL Garden is free. Transportation from school to Seeds of Solidarity, then back to Athol and Orange is provided.

SOL Garden Participants Receive: 1. A stipend ($5 per meeting, paid monthly) for being a leader and educator; 2. community service learning/school to work credit at your school; 3. a letter of recommendation for college and job; 4. a life transforming experience you’ll never forget!

Learn more and get an application (due back April 7th) at
www.seedsofsolidarity.org/sol-garden

SOL Garden is a project of Seeds of Solidarity Education Center Inc. A non-profit educational organization
Learn more and get an application at seedsofsolidarity.org/sol-garden/ or 978-544-9023
North Quabbin Community Coalition
251 Exchange Street, Athol MA 01331
www.nqcc.org

Mission Statement: The North Quabbin Community Coalition is a community-wide alliance committed to improving the quality of life for all those living and working in the North Quabbin since 1984.

How You Can Help the Coalition!

- Become a Donor! Visit www.nqcc.org.
- Add our website address to your website. Our site is full of beneficial resources and it would help people find us and them.
- Send your events and job listings to us at admin@nqcc.org to be added to our comprehensive North Quabbin Community Calendar or Employment Opportunity pages.
- Contribute stories, announcements and events to our newsletter. Our readership grows each week and you will reach many.
- Like us on Facebook.
- Open an account at TD Bank and ask to join their Affinity Membership Program. It costs you nothing and TD Bank will make an annual contribution to the NQCC based on members’ balances.

Affinity Membership Program

North Quabbin Community Coalition (code: A3564)
Call our Athol Store at 978-249-3248 to become a member of the program

Help raise money for your organization

Open an account at TD Bank and we’ll make a contribution to your organization. TD Bank will make an annual contribution based on the average balance in all members’ accounts.

Eligible accounts include:
- Checking
- Money Market
- Savings
- Certificate of Deposit
- IRA

Contributions are calculated at 1/2% on checking balances and 1/4% on savings, money market, CD and IRA balances. Members’ accounts are not affected in any way by this contribution. Your account balances are used to determine the level of contribution and are kept confidential.

If you are already a TD Bank customer, visit any TD Bank location and ask to have your balances included as part of your organization’s Affinity Membership Program.

Get $25 when you open a new non-interest bearing checking account

Open your account today!

America’s Most Convenient Bank®